

CWMAMAN COAL CO.

Jeff Turnbull

Living in Wales of course, I have an interest in the perfins of the companies that were operating in Wales. And recently I was able to acquire a very nice item used by the "CWMAMAN COAL CO" at their coal mine in the Aman valley, South Wales.



The first shafts of Shepherd's Pit were sunk in 1849 with coal being found in December of that year. The colliery was founded by Thomas Shepherd in partnership with H. J. Evans, who later operated the colliery alone, until the Cwmaman Coal Company was formed to purchase the colliery in 1873. Expansion followed with the opening of the Fforchwen pit in 1900 and the Trewen Pit between 1910 - 1912. In 1918 the Cwmaman Coal Co. Ltd. sold their enterprise to D. R. Llewellyn, with further ownership changes occurring in 1928 and 1934, when it was owned by the Bwllfa and Cwmaman Coal Co. Ltd and Welsh Associated Collieries Ltd respectively. When the colliery closed in 1935 it was under the control of Powell Duffryn Associated Collieries.



Cwmaman Colliery

The wrapper has a Queen Victoria ½d Slate perfin stamp "CC/Co" - C1280.01. This die was Sloper Die 4272 – Ordered May 1874 and fitted with a single headed die. The die is only recorded on the ½d slate, 2½d plate 22 and 1d red plates. The wrapper has a cancellation of Bute Docks and inspection of the relevant directories show the office for the company was based at Primavesi Chambers, James Street, Bute Docks.



On the back of the wrapper is a lovely map of the Mine and its whereabouts in the South Wales valleys. Inside is a long listing (all in French) of prices for shipment of coal to all the ports around the world to where the company shipped coal. The list of countries spreads from Europe, to South America, the Far East and the Caribbean. The wrapper has a printed date accompanying the shipping list of 1st September 1885.

It is remarkable to think that a coal mine in the Welsh valleys was shipping coal to such varied destinations all over the world in the early 1870s. During the Victorian age “Coal was King”.

